



DIDI BARRETT  
Assemblymember 106<sup>th</sup> District  
Columbia County  
Dutchess County

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIR  
Subcommittee on  
Regional Tourism Development

COMMITTEES  
Aging  
Agriculture  
Economic Development, Job Creation,  
Commerce and Industry  
Mental Health  
Tourism, Parks, Arts and  
Sports Development  
Veterans' Affairs

April 19, 2016

Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation  
U.S Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington DC, 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am very pleased to be writing in support of the Dutchess County and Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association's (HVRTA) application to complete the eight-mile trail connection between the Village of Millerton and Under Mountain Road in Ancram; the tunnel crossing of State Route 22 at the intersection of State Route 22 and Orphan Farm Road in Copake Falls; and three pedestrian bridges to connect to the trail at Black Grocery Road in Copake. These three important components will finish approximately 28 miles of trail -- from Wassaic in Dutchess County to Hillsdale in Columbia County -- which links to New York City via the Metro North Railroad. Upon completion the entire trail will be 46 miles through the region's stunningly beautiful countryside.

Tourism is an increasingly important economic driver in the Hudson Valley region and this funding will bring together two counties, New York State Parks, and several not-for-profit organizations in a pioneering project that has already become a much-loved destination for runners, walkers and bikers alike. The trail, which runs along the foothills of the Taconic and Berkshire mountain ranges, offers bucolic landscapes and unsurpassed views of the Harlem Valley, attracting visitors from New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut and other points near and far to enjoy the Harlem Valley Rail Trail.

The work of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association is integral to the vitality of Eastern Dutchess and Southern Columbia Counties, both of which I am proud to represent. This grant will provide visitors to the Harlem Valley Rail Trail with the optimal experience and create much-needed economic opportunity for the towns along the trail .

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions. I very much hope you will support this application.

Sincerely,

Didi Barrett  
Member of Assembly, 106th District